

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When a gas stream containing organic compounds is subjected to the present combustion process, the raw gas stream may contain other substances such as water, oxygen, hydrogen, hydrogen chloride, nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, ~~hydrocarbons~~ and fine particulate objects.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 32, with the following rewritten paragraph:

An alumina material (commercially available from Sumitomo Chem. Co., Ltd. under the trademark "TA-1301") in an amount of 20 g was added into 180 ml of a 28.5 mM aqueous solution of dinitro-diammine platinum. The resulting mixture was ~~dried~~ stirred under at 30°C for 2 hours and then separated into solid-liquid phases. The solid phase was washed with pure water and dried at 110°C for 20 hours to give a platinum-loaded alumina. By ICP emission spectroscopy, a platinum content of 4.3% by weight was found, but no rare earth elements were detected. By nitrogen adsorption method, it was determined that the alumina had such a pore size distribution that, where "a" represented a pore radius in Å at the maximum of the pore size distribution curve, the accumulated pore volume of pores having radii in the range of (a-25) Å to (a+25) Å was 90% of the total volume of all the pores. The platinum-loaded alumina was used as a first catalyst.

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Reply to Office Action of February 13, 2003

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 32, with the following rewritten paragraph:

An 8 g portion of the thus-obtained calcium-form beta and a 10 2 g portion of the previously obtained platinum-loaded alumina were combined and mixed thoroughly to give a second catalyst.